

the RARS

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

Exciter



Worldwide Friendship

August 2000

Number 358

Did We Win 8A (Again)?

Field Day Pix
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Roster Issue

Last *Exciter*?

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- Special Election -
- WA9SZL's Emergency Preparedness -



The Exciter

The **Exciter** is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the prior month. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the Exciter are those of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are \$9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer, or the RARS web site (www.rars.org).

Officers

President	open
Vice-President	Tim Nicholson KF4RTX 501-7746 kf4rtx@arrl.net
Secretary	Jeff Wittich AC4ZO 362-9456 ac4zo@arrl.net
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Info

Repeaters:

145.13
146.64
224.64
444.525 (88.5 PL)
444.95 (88.5 PL)

Web Site:

<http://www.rars.org>

President's Corner

Tim Nicholson KF4RTX

GREETINGS

Greetings fellow RARS members. Most of you who have been to a club meeting know who I am. But since I am being nominated for President of the club, I thought I should introduce myself to everyone and tell you a little bit about myself.

Before I begin, I would like to offer a big "Thank You" to Jack W0UCE for the work he did in the time he was President. I am sure many of us can relate to the decision he had to make. Jack, we wish you nothing but the best in your career endeavors.

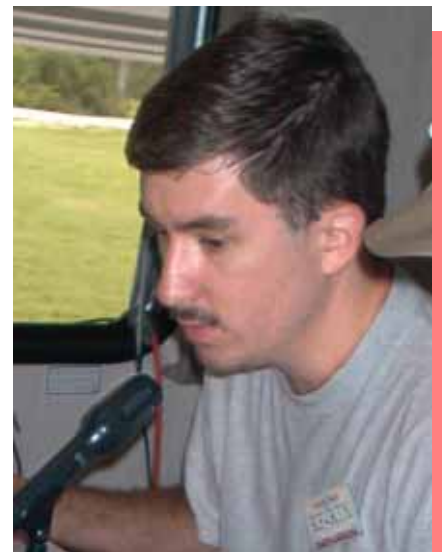
In case you haven't met me, my name is Timothy Nicholson, otherwise known as KF4RTX. Most folks call me Tim. I have been a ham and RARS member for just over 3 years. A dear friend in Georgia introduced me to ham radio before I moved to Raleigh. When I arrived in Raleigh, the only person I knew was my brother. I wondered how I could meet folks and make new friends. Then it dawned on me! Ham radio! I rushed out and found a copy of Now You're Talking and took the test in Wake Forest. About a year later, I upgraded to Tech Plus through the RARS Morse code class. Last October, I upgraded to General. I have high hopes of upgrading to Extra by the fall.

Since I have been licensed, I have found ham radio to be an exciting and interesting hobby. I have participated in several events, including Field Day and the Hurricane Floyd call-up. Recently, I have become interested in ARES. I enjoy VHF/UHF and HF alike, but like most hams, I find myself spending the most time on VHF. During Field Day, Fred N4IXL demonstrated PSK31, which has really peaked my interest. Anything that has to do with computers and radio always has my interest.

Being nominated for RARS President is quite an honor. I want to thank the Board for having confidence in me to accept the nomination. I won't make promises of being the best President in the history of the club, but I will work hard to keep RARS a great club. However, making RARS great is not the responsibility of the President or Vice President or Board. It has to be our responsibility as club members to keep RARS great and make it greater. I would like to see more people attending the club meetings. I want to see everyone participating in public service events and other club functions. If there are reasons why you do not want to participate, I want to hear them. Each one of us should be doing all we can to help the community and protect our radio spectrum. It's my job to make sure there are no obstacles in your way.

So, what can I do for you as President (assuming you elect me)? I would like to know. I can be reached by phone, email, and, oh yes, radio. My phone number is 501-7746 if you need to talk with me, or my email address is kf4rtx@arrl.net. Don't forget 64 either! I want to hear from you. This is YOUR club. Let's continue to make it great!

Your servant and (currently) Vice President,
Timothy Nicholson KF4RTX



Wake ARES Responds to Shearon Harris Nuke Drill

Gary Pearce KN4AQ

Wake County ARES got a quick wake-up call Tuesday afternoon, June 27. CP&L's Shearon Harris nuclear plant had scheduled a drill for that day, but no plans had been laid for ham radio to play a part. At 4:50 PM, Reed Whitten AB4W called Ron Ford KG4FGA, acting Wake County EC, and told him that county Emergency Management had just asked for an ARES callup. Hams were being asked to staff command posts in Fuquay-Varina, Holly Springs and Apex, a Fuquay staging area, and the county and state EOC stations.

Ron made his first broadcast for help on the RARS 146.64 repeater, and I responded. Both Ron and I were mobile, but I headed home quickly to begin recruiting hams to assist. We both broadcast bulletins on all area repeaters, looking for volunteers. We didn't use a telephone call-up list because we needed people who were on-the-air *now*. Also, the telephone list needs to be updated.

The bulletins surprised hams who were just beginning their commute home, most of them with dinner and evening plans already in place. But within a few minutes, volunteers began responding, offering to put their plans on hold and travel to southern Wake County to help out.

Butch Henion KF4AUF was one of the first to respond. Butch lives in Fuquay, but was still in south Raleigh when he heard the call. By 5:45, less than an hour from the first notification, Butch was on-site at the Fuquay elementary school staging area, surrounded by fire trucks and ambulances.

Tim Nicholson KF4RTX (RARS' acting Prez) was in RTP, heading toward north Raleigh. He asked if it would be worth diverting, since it would take a fairly long time to reach one of the command posts. I recall responding that "I'd rather have *someone* on the way from a long way out, than *no one* on the way from close by." Tim arrived at the Holly Springs area command post, the Fairview fire station on 1010 Rd., shortly after 6 PM. Greg Johnson KG4AWG joined him there a short while later.

By 6:16 PM, Kevin Dunphy W4KJD (known until recently as KD4YRU), Ronnie Casey K4JDR, and KG4FJA converged on the command post at Fuquay Town Hall. Meanwhile, Chris La Rue W4ADL and Bill Ward KD4ISF were working their way into the bowels of the Wake County Courthouse downtown, heading for the ham station at the county EOC, and Thomas Babb KF4JKQ (Central Carolina SKYWARN EC), went to the State EOC in the basement of the Administration Building on Jones St. Finally, once the other locations were staffed, I headed for the Apex area

command post in west Cary, arriving at 6:50 pm.

The hams at the command posts found representatives from local and county police, fire, EMS and emergency management agencies sitting around a table and... not doing much. The main point of the exercise, at least from the ham's perspective, was just showing up. At the Apex Command Post, the phone would ring now and then, and the officers would log an update on the progress of the drill - an evacuation, a radiation reading, a facilities report. The hams were not asked to handle any communications.

Acting EC KG4FJA said our participation was important because the entire county's response was being evaluated by FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Administration). Ron is planning on establishing a closer relationship with emergency management, and hams needed to fulfill their part in the activation plan to make that possible.

Lessons Learned:

The reason we drill is to find out what works and what doesn't. **We found one big problem** - the radio equipment at the Wake EOC is old and obsolete. Since the last time it was used, back during Hurricanes Dennis and Floyd last year, the PCRN 147.15 repeater moved to 145.39 MHz, and began requiring 82.5 Hz tone. That repeater is usually used for Wake ARES activity and provides the best coverage of southern Wake County.

While the old radios at Wake EOC would send tone, the tone frequency had to be programmed by soldering resistors on a circuit board matrix. Only 3 tones can be set that way, and most of the radio's memories would not remember tone settings.

None of the tones set in the radio were 82.5 Hz, and W4ADL and KD4ISF did not have the tools needed to reprogram the radio. Messages from the Wake EOC to the stations at the command posts had to be relayed by the state EOC station.

Individual preparation is another lesson everyone can use before the next drill or activation. Several hams began scrambling to program repeater frequencies and tones in their radios. This was for repeaters that they don't normally use in their daily operations, but that were pressed into service for the drill.

Two of the hams responding to staff command posts only had mobile radios. Their handhelds were sitting home on the shack desk. They had to run in and out from the meeting room to their car to check for messages and activity until another ham with a handheld arrived for backup.

Despite the shortcomings, KG4FJA felt the operation was a success. We showed we could respond on short notice and provide the backup communications we claim we can. We raised ARES profile among hams in the county. And we learned about some problems we need to correct.

Thanks to all the hams who helped with the drill! ■



RARS Dinner:
4th Tuesday at
Fat Daddies on
Glenwood Ave.
Info: 787-1111

Special Election at August Meeting

Chuck Littlewood K4HF
Nominating Committee Chair

The committee nominates the following RARS members to positions as follows:

For RARS President to fill the remaining term left vacant by Jack Ritter (through December, 2001):

Tim Nicholson, KF4RTX

Tim will be vacating the office of Vice President with less than 6 months to go, and with most of the VP duties completed for the rest of the year. We will leave that office open until the regular election in November.

In addition to the Special Election for President, a nomination for this regularly scheduled office:

For RARSfest 2001 Hamfest Chairman:

Hank Montgomery, K4HM

And finally, to fill another vacant position:

For RARS Public Service Director (Board of Directors):

Bill Cole KG4CXY

Tim, Hank and Bill will be nominated at the August RARS Meeting. Other nominations may be made at the meeting and then we will vote. Hank will be eligible for a seat on the Board of Directors after he completes one year of membership in RARS.

We thank these folks for their willingness to serve and thanks to all who provided input to the committee. ■

PUBLIC SERVICE

MS-150 Bike Tour



We need lots of hams for the MS-150 Bike Tour, scheduled for the weekend of September 16-17. The MS-150 is one of the bigger public service events of the year, lasting two days and covering 150 miles. Hams provide logistics and safety communications as around 800 cyclists ride from Clayton to the beach at Emerald Isle, with an overnight stop in Kinston. That's 75 miles each day, 150 miles total! We staff rest stops, man SAG Wagons, and shadow medical personnel and the event organizers.

To volunteer, contact Gary KN4AQ, or stop by the MS-150 communications web site: www.rars.org/ms-150

State Fair/ Red Cross Communicators



The Red Cross First Aid Station at the State Fair is probably our biggest public service challenge of the year: two operators per shift, three 5-hour shifts per day, for 10 days! That's 60 positions to fill. Fair dates are Friday, Oct. 13 through Sunday, Oct. 22.

Hams do the dispatching for the First Aid teams that respond to medical emergencies anywhere on the fair grounds. That frees up the Red Cross personnel to handle the medical jobs. **We**

10 Meter Net Expands to 75 Meters

The RARS 10 Meter Net has done something interesting... it's moved to 75 meters! More accurately, it opened a branch office.

The 10 Meter Net has been meeting Wednesdays at 8:30 on 28.364 MHz for over a year. This incarnation of the net (RARS has had 10 Meter nets off and on over the decades) is doing well, with about 8 stations checking in regularly, plus an occasional ham from elsewhere in the world dropping by. And it has accomplished one of the goals set for it: several club members have erected or improved antenna systems letting them get (back) on 10 meters.

But not everyone can play, no matter how good an antenna they put up. Some club members are just out of range of 10 meter groundwave from the cluster of net stations in Raleigh and Cary. So RARS Net Manager Bill Cole KG4CXY asked perpetual Net Control Gary Pearce KN4AQ what he thought about trying 75 Meters?

At first, Gary was reluctant to disturb the net. After all, as net control, he could hear everyone checking in. And 75 Meters is a busy, noisy band in the evening, especially in the summer. And Tech+'s wouldn't be able to play.

But a few weeks ago, Gary relented, and suggested splitting the net - starting on 10 Meters and then moving to 75 Meters after a round of check-ins and rag-chews. We've been using 3987 kHz as the 75 Meter frequency, and it's been reasonably clear for several weeks.

The format has been very popular, and it has been an interesting propagation experiment. In general, everyone hears everyone else better, unless there's a thunderstorm nearby. And once again, members are challenged to put up effective antennas for a new band, and upgrade licenses.

If you have an HF station, come join us Wednesday night!

also need an event coordinator for this job (you'll get lots of help from last year's coordinator (KN4AQ) and from W4BRB.

To volunteer, contact Bill Cole KG4CXY at 469-0785, or e-mail bcole@jmpstart.com

Pictures from last year's event are on the RARS Web Gallery.

Diabetes Walk for Hope



This event falls on Saturday, October 14 (the second day of the State Fair - we'll be busy that day... and KN4AQ can't help! He has a friend's wedding to videotape).

The walk starts in Umstead Park, and ends at Lake Crabtree park. The event coordinator is Dick Orander KD4ISC. To volunteer, contact Dick at 469-5322, or e-mail kd4isc@arrl.net.

Raleigh Marathon

FULCRUM
RALEIGH MARATHON



It's Raleigh's first full Marathon, Sunday, December 3rd, and they've been told: get the hams to help! We need an **event coordinator** for this one, too. Contact Bill Cole KG4CXY to volunteer.

RARS Roster August, 2000

The Roster has been deleted from the version of the Exciter archived on the RARS Web site, per instructions from the RARS Board of Directors. Page numbers for the rest of the Exciter will show that some pages have been deleted. KN4AQ, Editor



Another Field Day is history, though the final chapter won't be written until late Fall, when the ARRL releases the results. How will our 8A operation fare? Well, we totaled 12, 410 points, more than any other recent 8A entry except... ours, when we won in 1998!



◀ The 1:00 Operator's Meeting, under W2BYV's 10 Meter Beam.

ON THE COVER: W2BYV hoists the beam for the 10 Meter Novice/Tech's 320 contacts



▲ N4IXL's 20 Meter SSB crew operated in their usual air conditioned luxury, thanks to KE4IZW's motor home. It paid off, with 692 contacts. ▶

K1MW demonstrated this portable solar power kit. Look for an article about it next month ▼



▲ KN4AQ's 75 SSB station pulled double duty, as a cw station on 10 Meters during the day when 75 was dead. Total: 33 cw contacts on 10 (too much interference with the novice/tech station), and 288 SSB contacts on 75. ▶



N4HAF lends some fingers to N1KGY's 80 cw effort. Equipment problems limited them to 53 contacts on 80, and 22 on 15. ▶



N3ND helped the ▶ 40 cw team to 790 contacts, tops of all RARS FD stations.

◀ W4IK's 10 Meter SSB station racked up 210 contacts, while K4HF hit 310 on 15 SSB. ▶



◀ N1GMV gets help readying antennas for the VHF Bonus Station. 10 contacts on 2, and 93 contacts on 6.



More Pictures on the RARS Web Site's "Gallery":
www.rars.org



◀ NZ0I patiently pedals while W4IK makes the contacts for the Natural Power bonus points.

NA4G logs ▶ some of the 643 contacts at AC4ZO's 20 cw station



◀ The Murphy's 40 SSB station made 600 contacts, and helped with the 100 PR bonus points with this WTVD-11 story. KD4ACK and KE4DRL were once again the TV stars. Missing: son Joey KE4DRJ, away at school to become a crew chief for the Air Force.



◀ KG4CXY scored many points with the dinner, catered by Red Hot & Blue. None of the points went into the log, but who cares?

W4BRB Earns Red Cross Award

The Triangle Chapter of the American Red Cross presented their **Exceptional Volunteer Service Award** to RARS' own Bernard Blackmon W4BRB, at a luncheon honoring volunteers on June 23. This is the highest award a Red Cross Volunteer can receive from a Chapter.

Here's what the Red Cross says about Bernard: "Bernard Blackmon began volunteering with the Red Cross eleven years ago as a ham radio operator at the State Fair. When we learned that Bernard was willing to be trained to work with the First Aid Teams as well as the radio operators, we jumped at the chance to utilize both interests. Bernard is now an active member of the First Aid Station Committee and has been working with Wireless Communications of Raleigh to secure donated radios for use at all Red Cross First Aid stations. These radios allow our First Aiders to move about at events and remain in touch. Bernard Blackmon exemplifies the spirit and mission of the Red Cross through his forward thinking and commitment to the First Aid Station program. Therefore, we honor him with the Exceptional Volunteer Service Award."



W4BRB Receives the Red Cross Triangle Chapter Volunteer Service Award



Bernard doesn't grab the limelight often. But everyone working at the State Fair Red Cross radio room sees him hopping between jobs as a communicator and a First Aider. At RARS, Bernard has served terms as club Treasurer and FM/Repeater Chairman. Bernard negotiated the terms that got RARS repeaters on the State tower at Blue Ridge Rd., and the Alltel tower at Bayleaf... all under budget.

Bernard's contact at Wireless Communications is Dan Atchison N3ND, their Operations Manager. At Field Day, Dan could be found in the 40 Meter CW trailer. Together they have equipped Red Cross First Aid teams with handheld radios at many events each year (but no, not the State Fair... those radios are provided by the Fairgrounds).

Congratulations, Bernard! ■



Before (above) and after - the RARS Repeater Shack at Bayleaf (site courtesy of Alltel)

Bayleaf Repeater Shack Gets Makeover



Clean up, Paint Up, Fix Up

It could use some insulation, we said. And a workbench would be nice. We were talking about the building housing the RARS 224.64 and 444.525 repeaters at "Bayleaf" in north Raleigh. As delivered, the building was a wood-frame shed with no insulation. We had an air conditioner, but it would struggle mightily against our southern summer heat.

With that, Bob Breyer KG4FIO went to work. And before we knew it, Bob had transformed the building into near living quarters comfort. The building now sports insulation, interior

walls, cabinets, workbench, floor tile, AC and telephone outlets, and I think he might have added a curtain over the window. It lacks only running water and a bathroom (and Bob says "Just wait.")

Oh, Bob... perhaps a second story bedroom? No hurry. Next month is fine... ■

FCC NC VE Team Cleared

ARRL Web Extra

WASHINGTON, NC [UPDATE]: The FCC wrote ARRL-VEC Volunteer Examiners Leo C. Mallard Jr, W4KEM, Ronald J. Knapp, W9EF; Edward Gunter, N2VEA; and Robert E. Jones, KQ4PK, all of Kinston, North Carolina, on June 29, 2000, concluding an audit of an ARRL-VEC examination session in which the four are listed as participating Volunteer Examiners. The examination session took place July 30, 1999, in Washington, North Carolina.

The FCC advised it had reviewed the information provided by the VEs as well as all test materials and concluded the tests were valid. **"Although procedures could have been more organized, we find no irregularities in the session and have closed this matter,"** wrote FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth.

The ARRL-VEC had alerted the FCC to possible discrepancies at the session. The audit focused on Form 610 packages submitted for three Technician licensees. The FCC had asked the VEs for specific information involving erasure marks, check marks--some of which appeared to have been erased--and circles drawn around correct answers on answer sheets for one or more applicants. Hollingsworth thanked the four for their cooperation.

And Now, The Rest Of The Story....

Gary Pearce KN4AQ

What's it like to be the subject of an FCC inquiry? The four VE's mentioned in the story above found out it's no fun. Ron Knapp W9EF gave the details to the *Exciter*.

At the VE session in question, over a year ago in Washington, NC, several answer sheets were checked using the wrong overlay. (When VEs grade an exam, they place an acetate sheet with holes corresponding to the correct answers over the applicant's answer sheet, and mark the incorrect answers.) The VEs recognized their error, and had to change marks on several answer sheets to grade them correctly. They called the ARRL VEC to notify them that they would be receiving what would look like a "questionable" test session. And they were surprised by the reaction.

The ARRL VEC decertified the VEs immediately, and notified the FCC of the questionable answer sheets. The FCC launched an audit of the session, and published notice of the audit. That notice was carried by the amateur press, including *QST* and the *Exciter*.



Ron Knapp W9EF

The FCC audit was conducted entirely by mail. The VEs were asked to detail their roles in the VE session, explain the questionable marks on the answer sheets, verify their signatures on the documents, and so on. Once they answered the inquiries, the Kinston VEs waited... and waited. The FCC would not respond to inquiries by either the VEs or the ARRL.

Finally, the VEs received a letter from the FCC with their findings. The VEs were cleared.

Ron Knapp says he and his fellow VEs knew what the result would be from the beginning. But he was bothered by two things: the lack of support he received from the ARRL VEC, and the publication of the audit that appeared to paint the VEs as guilty. Having explained the situation in advance, he was surprised that the ARRL VEC reacted as it did.

Rick Linquist N1RL, Senior News Editor for the ARRL, explained to the *Exciter* that the news articles originated with the FCC. Noting that the ARRL has published stories of the difficulties the W5YI-VEC has had recently, Rick says "The ARRL certainly would not want to be accused of sweeping under the carpet any questions raised about an ARRL-VEC session while continuing to publish allegations about other VECs' testing practices," and that the ARRL did not attempt to "spin" the story in one direction or another.

Rick says that the ARRL followed routine procedures in temporarily decertifying the VEs and notifying the FCC. Those procedures do not presume guilt or innocence. Also, the ARRL-VEC "cannot play advocate for individual VEs if questions arise--no matter how simple and obvious the circumstances may seem to the individuals involved." That would put the League in conflict with its responsibility to the integrity of the whole VE program.

"The VEs whose privileges were suspended will be reinstated and ... the ARRL-VEC embraces the favorable conclusion(s) reached by the FCC," Rick adds.

RARS' lead VE, Charlie Brown W4VFJ, agrees that a VEC's procedures and policies can seem very strict. His agreement with the W5YI VEC states that the VEC can decertify VEs for any reason, or no reason. And they give Charlie the same authority over VEs at sessions he conducts.

Ron Knapp isn't so sure he will continue as a VE. He says he feels bitter over the experience, "but I'm sure that over time, that will go away." He plans to keep his ARRL Life Membership in place.

And Ron adds this advice: "First, to aid anyone else who may be going through a similar experience, my advice is to answer all questions truthfully, don't hold any answer back or try to work around issues. Then second, don't bother the FCC while they fulfill their duties of investigation." ■

ULS Protects Your Record

ARRL Bulletin

Registering now on the FCC's Universal Licensing System can benefit amateurs, even if they have no plans to file an application anytime soon. FCC staffer Steve Linn, N4CAK, says that ULS registration "protects your call sign within the system" and could prevent it from inadvertently being deleted or reissued due to a filing error.

Linn also pointed out that amateurs filing for a change of address should file an "administrative update" (AU) and not request a "modification." The ULS will not renew an amateur's license unless it is within the 90-day window of expiration or

within the two-year grace period after expiration. The same applies for those upgrading under restructuring.

Linn said the FCC continues to work out the bugs in the ULS. He said that support for the Mac platform and other browsers, such as Internet Explorer, should be available soon.

The FCC in late April opened the ULS to Web filing. Linn advised filers to use the on-line system whenever possible, since it helps users to avoid errors that will not get trapped when filing on paper and could lead to delays or errors in your FCC record.

Visit <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls> for more information or to access the ULS. ■

Wanted: Dream Antenna Farm

Dick Hayter N4HAY

Dear fellow Hams,

Let me introduce myself as a member of that growing sector of hams who live in family sub-divisions and apartments with restricted covenants. I love to operate QRP (low power being less than 5 watts output) on the HF bands. QRP has sharpened my awareness of the importance of an excellent antenna system. The brilliant article titled 'Everything Works' by N6BT in the July 2000 QST demonstrates in a very clear and clever way that arguably 'your enjoyment of Amateur Radio is directly related to

your antenna-although anything will "work".

My antenna farm consists of a stealth 66ft windom antenna which I haul 60 feet into the trees in my small yard, generally under cover of darkness. This has given me many hours of enjoyment. It 'works' but how much better could it be? Very occasionally I have witnessed the magic of a large antenna array. You have to hear it to believe it!

Looking for that dream antenna farm: Dick Hayter N4HAY, shown here at RARS Field Day 1999

For sometime I have been thinking about how I could gain access to a really good antenna farm. A location where I could experiment to my heart's content with antennas. DXCC with 50mW! The fact that I live in a restricted covenant neighborhood need not be a major limitation. Certainly my family does not want to move from our beautiful home. I have derived my needs as follows:

1. Space enough to erect a number of wire antennas for the low bands and at least a single tower about 70 feet high for a multi element multi-bander for the high bands.
2. No 'show stopper' covenants.
3. The antenna farm located no more than 20 minutes drive from my house in Morrisville NC. This would allow me to drive to the location for a few hours of enjoyment with minimal disruption to family commitments.
4. A good HAAT (Height-above-average-terrain).
5. Accessible using a two-wheel-drive SUV. A short drive over a farm field would be acceptable.
6. A secure location to prevent vandalism (or one which could be made secure).
7. The possibility to erect a small wooden ham shack, although this is not essential since it is possible to operate from the trailer of a vehicle which is towed or driven on-site.
8. No electrical noise. ie no nearby high voltage power lines.
9. Since I am operating QRP, I don't need 110v supply. A battery-powered fan will keep me cool in summer for some hours and a propane heater will keep me warm in winter.
10. Low acoustic noise. (ie RDU flight-path not a good plan).
11. Friendly neighbors.

I am interested in any opportunities that will meet my need. I am willing to consider purchasing or leasing the location if neces-

sary. Certainly I am willing to allow access to my equipment by others interested in the hobby. I will also take on any local ordinance planning requirements.

So far my investigations have identified the following possibilities:

- Small urban properties for sale in older neighborhoods with a small house on-site. (Generally these meet the need but will not be a good investment unless prepared to go into the home rental business).
- Small urban properties for sale that have not been developed. (These are less expensive but are generally not good as an investment and are located in very insecure areas).
- Larger properties for sale outside city limits. (These come near the mark although they can be insecure and are a longer drive).
- Residential properties for rent. (Expensive, unless a landlord will rent a space in the garden at a reasonable rate).
- Industrial properties for rent. I have made some progress with industrial park owners such as timber yards and trucking companies who have space on their property. (Here liability insurance is the challenge).
- Lease tower space on a cell tower. (Yet to be explored).
- Lease space in a farmland corner. This has very good possibilities and fits almost all requirements. (It is a challenge to communicate the idea to a non-ham farmer however. This has to be done before the dog is set on you)!
- Offer to work with interested community organizations such as ARES, Clubs, Schools and Churches. I would be willing to maintain the organization's antenna farm and to allow free access to my antennas and equipment by the organization's members. This is the option that appeals to me the most since it allows an opportunity to promote Ham Radio, help the sponsoring organization, in addition to meeting my needs.

I would be most interested in establishing contact with anyone who has any experience, opportunities or ideas in this regard. I would also be very interested in working with anyone who may have a similar goal in mind.

I feel that with some effort it will be possible to realize that dream antenna farm and, even better, help others, and promote ham radio in the process!

73 de Dick Hayter N4HAY
dickhayter@aol.com
919 468 5137 (home)

This is the Last Exciter!*

Oh, darn. You saw the *.

No, RARS is not going to stop publishing the **Exciter**, but this could be your last copy if your membership has expired.

RARS Memberships expire on June 30. As a courtesy, members who have not renewed continue to receive a copy of the **Exciter** through August. Starting with the September issue, the mailing list is trimmed so that only current members receive a copy.

*Check your mailing label, or the date of your membership in the Roster (info current as of July 14, 2000). If they show an expiration date of 6/30/2000... bye, bye! To renew, pull the renewal form out of your June **Exciter**, download one from the web, or contact the Treasurer (see page 2).

Club Meeting Minutes

July, 2000

The July meeting was cancelled, as it fell on the July 4th holiday and the church was closed.

Board Meeting Minutes

June, 2000

Minutes of the RARS June Board Meeting - June 20, 2000

The monthly Board meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on June 20. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Tim Nicholson KF4RTX in the absence of the President 7:38p. Members present at that time were: KN4AQ, KG4CXR, N4IXL, AB4OZ, KO4QH, KF4RDP, KF4RTX, N4YRD, N4YTO, and AC4ZO. The total attendance was 12.

On motion by KF4RDP, seconded by KN4AQ, the minutes of the May meeting were approved.

N4YTO gave the Treasurer's report. He said our membership stands at 299 with 165 renewed.

In the Vice President's report, KF4RTX tells us that the July meeting is cancelled because it falls on the Fourth, and the church will be closed for the holiday. The program for the August meeting will be Emergency Preparedness, presented by John Mayfield, WA9SZL. The plan for September is to bring in W4FAL and K4ITL for a program on SERA and PCRN.

Committee Reports:

In the FM Committee report, N4IXL announced that the 444.525 repeater is down, and that 444.95 is about to go on the air from N4VQT. Also, Fred is thinking about putting the 145.13 machine on the water tower in RTP.

KO4QH reported on the Education Department. She has received the new Now You're Talking books for the Summer class. KN4AQ reports that registration forms are coming in, and we expect a good turnout this time around.

In the Exciter Editor report, KN4AQ passed around the 12 page preliminary July issue of the newsletter. There was a brief discussion of mailing problems we are encountering, and an item was added to the New Business part of the agenda to handle it.

KF4RDP gave the Webmasters activity report. He said that we have been getting about 250 hits a week on the main page, and about 200 total hits per day.

KG4CXR reported on Membership Services. She said that she has printed about 110 membership cards for the 2000-2001 year, and that the card program is going well. Also, she reminded Board members that people with red nametags at the General meetings are guests, and need to be welcomed properly.

Old Business:

N4IXL gave an update on the progress of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws issue. He is waiting for a call from the Secretary of State's office concerning a procedural issue.

New Business:

The issue of the Resignation of the President was discussed, along with an item concerning a candidate for the position of Public Service Director. Both items were tabled until the July meeting, so the Nominating Committee can complete their work.

The mailing problems with the Exciter were discussed. A few ideas were brought up and kicked around, but no permanent solution was identified. A temporary resolution was implemented which moves the submission deadline to the 15th of the month.

Comments and Announcements:

N4YTO - Renewals are going well.

N4YRD - Spoke of a company that provides Internet connection services and equipment at a very low cost. Contact John for details.

K4HM - Has moved into his new house, and will soon plan an antenna party.

KN4AQ - Described the recent activity in AREs concerning the County EC and the SERT Coordinator team which has recently been formed.

With the business complete, on motion by AC4ZO, the meeting adjourned at 8:46p.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO - Secretary

Hams Assist Triathlon

13 Hams provided ample communications coverage for the Jimmy V Foundation Triathlon at Crabtree Lake Park on August 16th. Over 800 athletes swam, biked and ran a course in and around the park.

Participating were:

Thomas Babb KF4KJQ - Coordinator
Gary Pearce KN4AQ - Net Control
Jim Walter KG4FIJ - Asst. Net Control
Bob Woodson KF4MMM - EMS Shadow
Greg Johnson KG4AWG - SAG 1
John VanPelt K4JVP - SAG 2
Denyse Walter KG4CXR - Bike Staging
Matt Sickles W2BYV - Kayak 1
Joe Zobkiw WA2UZO - Kayak 2
Bill Cole KG4CXY - Rest Stop
Byron King K4NGJ - Park Entrance
Larry Holt KG4FIQ - Beach
Cyndi Pearce KD4ACW - Announcer
Daniel Matthews KE4ENB - Entrance



KG4CXR observes an EMS crew tending to an injured ankle, while WA2UZO pilots his kayak following a swimmer at the Jimmy V Foundation Triathlon



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Snapshots



Hams In Progress:

the first Summer Tech license class is underway, with about 25 students - half of them learning Morse Code (along with some club members upgrading. N4HAF teaches cw (left, below), while AC4ZO warms 'em up for the lecture (right). See class info at: www.rars.org/class



Hamfest Calendar

July 29: Waynesville
August 5: Roanoke, VA
Sept. 2-3: Shelby
Sept. 17: Butner
Sept. 23-24: Virginia Beach, VA



courtesy of the
SERA Repeater Journal